

General Services Administration

§ 105-55.003

matters not involving access to documents with the Deputy Administrator, General Services Administration, Washington, DC 20405. Complaints must be filed within 90 calendar days from the date the grievance arose. The Deputy Administrator promptly acts on each complaint and notifies the complainant in writing of the decision.

Subpart 105-54.4—Reports

§ 105-54.400 Scope of subpart.

This subpart sets forth the reports required by this part 105-54 and prescribes instructions for submission of the reports.

§ 105-54.401 Reports on GSA Federal Advisory Committees.

(a) The Committee Management Secretariat periodically issues reporting instructions and procedures. The GSA Committee Management Officer files a report each fiscal year providing program, financial, and membership information. The Secretariat uses the information in preparing recommendations and status reports on advisory committee matters and in assisting the President in preparing and submitting a fiscal year report to the Congress. Instructions for preparing GSA's submission are provided by the GSA Committee Management Officer.

(b) Reports on closed meetings are required as specified in § 105-54.301(o).

PART 105-55—COLLECTION OF CLAIMS OWED THE UNITED STATES

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AUTHORITY: 31 U.S.C. 3701-3719; Pub. L. 97-365, 96 Stat. 1754.

SOURCE: 50 FR 37531, Sept. 16, 1985, unless otherwise noted.

§ 105-55.001 Background.

The Department of Justice and the General Accounting Office have jointly issued amended Federal Claims Collection Standards (4 CFR parts 101-105) which reflect changes to the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966 (31 U.S.C. 3701-3719) made by the passage of the Debt Collection Act of 1982 (Pub. L. 97-365, 96 Stat. 1754). The preamble to the amended Federal Claims Collection Standards instructs individual agencies to adopt their own regulations as to detailed procedures in furtherance of the Federal Claims Collection Standards. Additionally, the Debt Collection Act of 1982 directs, as reflected in the Federal Claims Collection Standards, that each agency must prescribe regulations on collecting by administrative offset and that each agency may prescribe regulations identifying circumstances appropriate to waive collection of interest and charges in conformity with the Federal Claims Collection Standards.

§ 105-55.002 Purpose.

In keeping with the suggestion in the preamble to the amended Federal Claims Collection Standards and the directives in the Debt Collection Act of 1982 and the Federal Claims Collection Standards as to administrative offset and the collection of interest and charges, this part provides procedures for the General Services Administration to collect, compromise, or terminate collection action on claims owed to the United States arising from activities under GSA jurisdiction. It implements the Federal Claims Collection Act as amended by the Debt Collection Act. It supplements the regulations published jointly by the General Accounting Office and the Department of Justice. It sets forth procedures by which GSA:

- (a) Will collect claims owed to the United States;
- (b) Will determine and collect interest and other charges on those claims;
- (c) Will compromise claims; and
- (d) Will refer unpaid claims for litigation.

§ 105-55.003 Applicability.

- (a) This part applies to all claims due the United States under the Federal

Claims Collection Act, as amended by the Debt Collection Act, arising from activities under the jurisdiction of the General Services Administration, except for the collection by administrative offset of those claims arising out of contracts subject to the Contracts Disputes Act of 1982, 41 U.S.C. 601 et. seq. The word "claims" includes but is not limited to amounts due the United States from fees, overpayments, fines, civil penalties, damages, interest and other sources.

(b) Claims arising from the audit of transportation accounts pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3726 shall be determined, collected, compromised, terminated or settled in accordance with regulation published under the authority of 31 U.S.C. 3726 (see 41 CFR part 101-41, administered by the Director, Office of Transportation Audits) and are otherwise excepted from these regulations.

[50 FR 37531, Sept. 16, 1985, as amended at 52 FR 46468, Dec. 8, 1987]

§ 105-55.004 Demand for payment.

(a) A total of three progressively stronger written demands at approximately 30-day intervals will normally be made, unless a response or other information indicates that additional written demands would either be unnecessary or futile. When necessary to protect the Government's interest, written demand may be preceded by other appropriate actions under the Federal Claims Collection Standards, including immediate referral for litigation and/or offset.

(b) The initial written demand for payment shall inform the debtor of:

- (1) The basis for the claim;
- (2) The amount of the claim;
- (3) The date when payment is due; (30 days from date of mailing or hand delivery of the initial demand for payment);
- (4) The provision for interest, penalties, and administrative charges in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3717, if payment is not received by the due date (See § 105-55.005 for details regarding interest, administrative charges, and penalty charges.)

(5) The intent of the agency to collect by administrative offset, including asking the assistance of other Federal agencies to help in the offset whenever

possible, if the debtor has not made payment by the payment due date, has not requested a review of the claim within the agency as set out in paragraph (b)(8) of this section or has not made an arrangement for payment by the payment due date;

(6) The right of the debtor to inspect and copy the records of the agency related to the claim. Any costs associated therewith shall be borne by the debtor. The debtor shall give reasonable notice in advance to the agency of the date upon which it intends to inspect and copy the records involved;

(7) The right of the debtor to a review of the claim within the agency. If the claim is disputed in full or part, the debtor shall respond to the demand in writing by making a request for a review of the claim within the agency by the payment due date stated in the demand. The debtor's written response shall state the basis for the dispute. If only part of the claim is disputed, the undisputed portion should be paid by the date stated in the initial demand. The agency shall acknowledge receipt of the request for a review, and upon completion of consideration shall notify the debtor whether its determination has been sustained, amended, or canceled within 15 days of the receipt of the request for a review. If the agency either sustains or amends its determination, it shall notify the debtor of its intent to collect by administrative offset unless payment is received within 15 days of the mailing of the notification of its decision following a review of the claim.

(8) The right of the debtor to offer to make a written agreement to repay the amount of the claim. The acceptance of such an agreement is discretionary with the agency. If the debtor requests a repayment arrangement because a payment of the amount due would create a financial hardship, the appropriate GSA Regional Finance Division will analyze the debtor's financial condition. Dependent upon the Regional Finance Division's evaluation of the financial strength of the debtor, the Comptroller or the appropriate designee and the debtor may agree to a written installment repayment schedule. The debtor shall execute a confession-judgment note which specifies all of